

Iraq-Iraq

Military situation

- last major fighting Mkhman's capture in early Jul
- only sporadic activity since then
- Iraq bombed outskirts of Tehran + Isfahan today

Momentum since Feb in hands of Iranians

- they have gotten better (training, tactics, intel, etc)

Publically said it would win war this year

Irans is preparing for another round of attacks

Political situation

Saddam under pressure

high casualties this year - at least 30000 (= to all of 85)

popular spirits low

difficulty finding recruits (Temp closed universities)

poor morale in mil compared with last year

Severe econ problems

Irans needs quick fix

Saddam has given

- agreed to involve others in leadership in econ + pol. decision making
- risk to him have increased - possibility assassination high - several attempts in last 12 mos.

but

more loyalist to key positions
good security

- Key - Iran has repeatedly asked not just for removal of Saddam but skin of Baathist regime